

DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR:

A Social Institution Perspective

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CHAPTER TWO

FAMILY DEVIANT BEHAVIOUR

Ameachi – Ani, Nneka & Martin C. Igwe

Introduction

The word 'deviant' has a Latin root (deviare) meaning, 'to turn out of the way' or 'deviato' which means an 'abnormality'. Deviations generally are marked by violation of social norms, moral norms and cultural values (Goody, 2016). Conceptually, deviance has been defined using normative and reactive approach. With a normative approach, deviance is viewed as a violation of social norms. Deviance as a reactive approach is based on societal reactions to a behaviour which has been given a deviant label. Deviance can be defined as the concept that encompasses a variety of forms of human behaviour which has been defined in the society as wrong, bad, immoral or illegal (Jensen, 2003). Deviance can be those behaviours which breach commonly held norms, values and expectations of the society (Anderson & Taylor, 2009). Anderson & Taylor (2009) further stated that those who depart from the conventional norms are called deviants. Steven (2013) stated that deviance is seen by lots of people as a bad behaviour because it constitutes a social problem. It constitutes a social problem because it affects the smooth flow of social interactions and impairs social organizations. Jones (2016) perceived deviant behaviour as a behavioural disposition which is not in accordance with the norms and ideals of a particular society.

Deviant behaviour poses a real threat to the physical and social survival of an individual within certain social environments such as the family. When a behaviour from a family member goes abnormal and when an adolescent slacks in his behavioural developments, all the blames are being pointed to the family. Family deviant is always seen as the deficiency of the parents and family members and their failure to live up to their responsibilities of nurturing their offsprings. Children start learning initially from their

families, seeing their parents as their first teachers. It is generally accepted that the experience of the child in his first years largely determine his character and later personality (Jones, 2016). Upbringing is normally used to refer to the treatment and training of the child within the family. Early upbringing in the family is naturally affected by the cultural patterns of the community, the parents' capabilities and their aims which depends not only on upbringing and education but on the inborn abilities of the child.

Parents are role models towards their children. This is attributed to when parents are held in high esteem and are the main sources of reinforcement to their family members. Albert Bandura opined that children learn more through observation and imitation of behaviours. If a parent act in a negative way, the child is more likely to follow their parents' negative attitude. From birth, parents mould and shape behaviours suitable to the norms of the society through child rearing. There are certain parental techniques that have greater impact on a child's behaviour such as parental support. Parental support is a parental behaviour towards her child such as praising, encouraging and affection. These behaviours show the child that he is valued and loved by his parents. Parental support bonds the children to the family and helps to build their self-control (Barnes, Grace, Joseph, Hoffman & John, 2006). This building of self-control hinders deviant behaviour from forming (Barnes et al, 2006). Self-control is an individual characteristic that is established early in life and can account for deviant behaviour (Teasdale & Silver, 2009). Self-control is established through strong attachments to social foundations such as the family. The family creates social bonds and social control to her members. These social bonds can weaken and has the ability to influence the level of deviance engaged by members of the family. The high rate of deviance arises when the family informal control deteriorates and remains in shambles (Teasdale & Silver, 2009).

Isangedighi (2007) noted that the care and love which should make a lot of impact in the developmental process of the child are lacking in some families. Lack of care, concern and love sometimes trigger deviance in families. Family structure refers to how the family

is constituted. It could either be intact (that is children living with both parents) or broken (that is children living with either of the parents or relatives). Douglas (2004) asserted that children from divorced families especially the ones headed by female parents are highly involved in negative sexual behaviours, which they eventually get involved in deviant behaviour. Parents and family members play significant roles in helping their children understand the societal norms and the bonds involved in it, so as to help them not to deviate.

Forms of Deviant Behaviours

Deviant behaviours can be seen in various forms regardless of age or gender. Various negative behaviours which are seen as deviating and unacceptable to the society are assumed as deviant behaviours. From the simplest forms of deviant behaviours such as –

- Lying
- Bullying
- Fighting
- Lack of socialization
- Violent behaviours
- Being drunk
- Gambling
- Watching pornographic videos
- Quarrelling
- Disobeying teachers
- Running away from homes etc.

The more complex ones such as –

- Prostitution
- Murder
- Rape
- Burglary
- Domestic violence
- Drug abuse etc.

Lying is an act or practice of telling or speaking falsehood. It is an act which when repeated often becomes a habit. Quite often lying is resort to as a cover up after some misdeeds or prank. Possible reasons why children/adolescents engage in lying as identified by Edo-Olutu (2006) include avoiding a painful experience, avoiding undesirable consequences for one's action or punishment for work not done, afraid of parents' reactions to a given situation. Some use it as a tool to deceive while others use it as a cover up.

Bullying is defined as a deliberate and repeated hurtful act, word or behaviour such as name calling, threatening or shouting at someone. These unpleasant and unacceptable acts are usually unprovoked. The bully is usually physically stronger than the victim. Bullying is a bad habit which some adolescents indulge in at the expense of their peers/mates. Ekechukwu (2009) identified various types of bullying to include physical contacts such as punching, beating, biting and strangling. Bullying can only be verbal acts such as hurtful name calling, teasing and gossip. It might be emotional in nature as in rejection, terrorizing, ethnic affronts, isolation, ostracizing, manipulation and peer pressure. It could also be sexual, such as sexual harassment and assault.

Fighting is an act of expressing one's anger through the use of fist, weapon and other violence means. Adolescents/children who are frequently involved in fight often do not know how to control their anger or how to prevent or avoid conflict. They always believe that fighting is the acceptable solution. Indecent dressing is the act of not dressing properly. It is always seen as an act of being half naked.

Socialization is the process of inculcating societal norms and cultural values in individuals to help them become full members of the society. Socialization helps individuals to become better persons in the society. Socialization has two complementary meanings, formation of individuals and transmission of culture which it plays on individuals. The personalities of individuals are formed through socialization. According to John Locke, every individual is born a "Tabula Rasa". This means that the minds of every individual are like a "Blank slate". Blank slate in the sense that nothing is contained in

the minds of any individual born on this planet earth. Formation of an individual means exposing the person to certain ideas, beliefs, practices, knowledge and capabilities which he is expected to know, imbibe and practice for a better individual in the society. Formation of an individual starts from birth. It is the duty, obligation and responsibility of the parents, guardians and care givers to contribute to forming the personality of their children and wards. Every child on this earth is born the same, it is the work of the parents, guardians and care givers to shape, mould and direct these young minds into a better track for a better person in the society. On the contrary, when socialization is lacking in the life of the individual, it will have a negative impact on the behaviours and attitudes of the individual which might lead him into deviating.

These forms of deviant behaviour may be as a result of repressed dissatisfaction, unemployment, poverty, societal revenge, desire to vindicate etc. Besides the above likely instigators of deviant behaviour, family problems could also lead to individual's emotional instability which depicts itself in deviant behaviours. Individuals with unstable emotions such as anger, agitation, stress and grudges resort to various deviant behaviours to release their repressed feelings and also looking for ways which will help them cope with life challenges. Nye (1958, cited in Jensen, 2003) states that family as a primary group is the most effective driving force of social control over their members. Nye (1958, cited in Jensen, 2003), asserted that family generates four categories of social control which he believes could prevent her members from deviating. These categories include - Direct control, Indirect control, Internalized control and control through alternative means of need satisfaction.

Direct control is imposed through punishments or restraints by external forces which have the ability to influence individuals' behaviours. Restraints by external forces such as law enforcement agents, teachers and parents. Indirect control is the extent of affection which individuals have in identifying and integrating themselves with the authority figures in general and parents in particular. Internalized control occurs if an individual can limit his actions without considering the level of direct control. This particular

control is what proper socialization can do to individuals. Having control through alternative means of need satisfaction occurs when the social system presents a variety of legitimate ways to decrease the attraction of non-conformity. Nye (1958, cited in Jensen, 2003) claims that despite the various categories of social control, all of them operate independently and still have a cumulative effect over individual behaviours. At the expansion of social control which helps to place limitations on the forms of deviant behaviour, Reckless (1961, cited in DeMelo, 1999) proposed containment theory which explains deviant behaviour as an interplay between inner and outer containments of individuals. According to this perspective, every individual has a protective internal structure (inner containment) and an external structure (outer containment). Both of these structures protect and insulate an individual against deviant behaviours (DeMelo, 1999). The inner containments which are self-components are more important than outer containments, which are one's social environment. According to Reckless containment theory, there are pushes from within the individual, such as poverty, discrimination and association with gang members which push or pull individuals to commit deviant behaviours. These internal and external forces produce deviant behaviours unless they are counteracted by containment (DeMelo, 1999). Deviant behaviour is likely to occur, if the motivations of deviant acts are strong and containment is weak (International Encyclopaedia of Justice Studies, 2007). The containment perspective believes that the successful acquisition of a society's rules regarding acceptable behaviour is a prerequisite for the development of the individual's inner containment. Although the social environment or the external factors may have effect on the individuals' behaviours, those factors should be filtered by the individuals. A good self-concept is believed to be the main preventive factor of deviant behaviour (Shoemaker, 2005).

Reckless (1961, cited in Jensen, 2003) is of the opinion that individuals who have strong inner containment carry a good self-concept, a well-developed superego, ego strength and a high frustration tolerance. External factors such as the family should help

individuals develop these internal and external factors to help limit their involvement in any form of deviant behaviour.

Forms of Family Deviant Behaviour

Wife battery – Wife battery is one of the most common forms of violence where women are abused physically and emotionally by someone who tells her he loves her (Veer, 2004). Wife battery is perceived to be an intentional behaviour, its purpose is to establish and exert power and control over another person called a wife. Wife battery as a form of violence is usually perpetuated by men against women which involves threatening behaviours, slaps and being pushed about, through black eyes, bruises and broken bones, to extremely serious incidents of multiple assaults. Wife battery can be life threatening, resulting in internal injuries, permanent handicaps or disabilities or even death (Hague & Malos). In wife battery, women are exposed to lots of abuses, injuries where they are stabbed, strangled, beaten, kicked, burned, punched, hit or thrown from windows (Laviolette & Barnett, 2004).

As a woman is abused in her family, it creates lots of hatred and conflicts within the family members, ranging from one problem to another which brings division among the children, where some will stand for their mother and vice versa. Despite all these abuses, the woman will try all she could to hide them from her children but this is rarely possible. It is impossible to hide because the force of the cries and shouts from their mother when being battered can feel like a terrible tidal wave to a child. Children in battering relationships face immediate risk of becoming co-victims during an assault on their mother as well as suffering psychological consequences because of the exposure to violence. In families where wife battery occurs, fear, instability and confusion replace the love, comfort and nurturing which the members of the family need, especially the children. In such situations, the children of the family live in constant fear of physical harm from the person who is supposed to protect and care for them. At this point, they might seek refuge with their peers and the society at large, if not guided.

Spousal abuse – Spousal abuse is a pattern of abusive and threatening behaviours by one or both partners in an intimate relationship such as marriage, family or cohabitation which may involve physical, emotional, economic and sexual violence as well as intimidation, isolation and coercion (Basinskaite & blache, 2011). Spousal abuse is a serious societal problem which affects the lives of family members, most especially the children. Spousal abuse is a pattern of control, dominations and humiliations through the use of physical violence and threats of being hurt, which results in inducing fear on the members of the family (Johnson, 2006). Humphery & Stanley (2006) agree that the impact which spousal abuse has on a child's social ability depends on the child's level of understanding, personality, circumstances, coping strategies and degree of support. Children in the same family, despite living through the same events, react in entirely different ways. For instance, in a family of three sons, the eldest physically fights his father whenever he makes a violent move towards his mother. His youngest brother withdraws from the scene by isolating himself totally. The middle boy has taken to staying in his room and has developed mental health problems. In the above instance, what will be the fate of these boys and how will their lives be in future?

Children know when their parents fight or when spousal abuse occurs in their households. The majority of the children see or overhear it, almost all of them see their mother upset or crying. Children hear their parents, the adults they depend on, screaming in anger, pleading in fear and sobbing in pain. The children hear fists hitting bodies, objects thrown and shattered, people thrown against walls and knocked to floors. They may see blood, bruises and weapons (Humphery & Stanley, 2006). Children who find themselves and their families in this situation usually resort to all forms of deviance to seek for a peace of mind. Some become rebels to the society out of lack of love from their families while others embrace drugs as a way of easing their sorrows.

Negative Parental model - Parents' roles in the family has primarily been to prepare the children for adulthood through rules and discipline. Understanding the importance of maintaining high

quality parenting is particularly essential, this is because the influence of parenting during adolescence continues to affect behaviours into adulthood. This implies that positive parenting yield good fruits in the lives of an adolescent while negative parenting lead to deviating. Originally, parenting was based on the dimension of parental control to form three different parenting styles which includes –

- Authoritative parenting
- Permissive parenting
- Uninvolved / Neglectful parenting

Parental control is defined as the claims which parents make on their children to become integrated into the family as a whole, as their maturity demands. Parental control involves supervision, disciplinary efforts and willingness to confront the child who disobeys. The parental model which the parents employ to train their children is like a bridge through which parents know the aspects of lives of their children such as their attitudes, behaviours and thoughts. The rate of scolding and reprimanding a child depends on the parental model which he was exposed to from birth. There are some parents who do not know how to properly scold or punish their children when they perceive any wrong doings around them, they prefer to paint such behaviour instead of trashing it out. Such parents forgot to understand that when a negative behaviour is reinforced, it occurs and re – occurs again and again but when such behaviour is punished thoroughly, it will not re – occur again. There is a Bible adage that says “Train a child in a way so that when he grows up, he will not depart from it”. In Igbo language, it is translated thus, “Anaghi amu aka ekpe na nka” this means that a child needs to learn all the Nitty – Gritty of his family and that of the society at a younger age not at an older age. Psychologists made us to understand that children have their learning stages, when these learning stages come and goes, it becomes hard for the child to learn easily and comprehend. Nitty – gritty in the sense that the child should be exposed to the heart and soul of this life. He should know the essentials or the vital aspects of this life inwardly and outwardly, this helps to expose him to the pros

& cons facing him in this life. Knowing all the negative and positive aspects of this life will give him a head way on what to choose for himself.

Authoritative parents are high in responsiveness and demandingness. They exhibit more supportive than harsh behaviours. Authoritative parents convey the reasoning behind obeying rules, they also encourage the use of reasons in shaping behaviours. This parenting style is most often associated with positive adolescent behaviours and has been found to be the most effective and beneficial style of parenting among most families.

Permissive parents are attributed by high levels of responsiveness but low levels of demandingness. Permissive parents always accept every desires and actions displayed by their children/adolescents. This parenting style do not set rules, they avoid engaging in behavioural control and set few behavioural expectations for adolescents. In fact, they stop monitoring their children as they get to adolescent stage. Adolescents from permissive families have a higher frequency of deviations from the norms and values of the family and that of the society.

Uninvolved / Neglectful parents have been found to have the most negative effects on adolescent behaviours when compared to other parenting styles. Uninvolved parents often fail to monitor or supervise their child's behaviours and they do not support or encourage their child. Uninvolved parents are described as low I responsiveness and low in demandingness. Uninvolved parents often show disengagement from the responsibilities of child rearing and are often seen as being uninvolved regarding the needs of their child. Adolescents from uninvolved families often engage in both simple and more complex forms of deviant behaviours. This is because their parents do not have time to control them, therefore, they lack the closeness, bond and the warmth of parenthood.

Unwanted pregnancy – unwanted pregnancy is perceived to be a social problem which commonly occurs everywhere in the world. It is referred to as 'unwanted' because the teenage mother is not physically, psychologically and economically ready to bear a child. This phenomenon has an adverse effect on the life of the teenager,

the child, the family and the society at large. Unwanted pregnancy here could be labelled teenage pregnancy. This is because the teenager was not up to 18 years of age when the pregnancy occurred. Spencer (2011) defines teenage pregnancy as that which occurs in the life of a young girl between the ages of 13 – 17 years when the reproductive organs and systems are not fully developed.

Occurrence of teenage pregnancy might be attributed to poor parental supervision as a result of broken homes, exposure to pornographic films, uninvolved/neglectful parents and lack of sex education (Mitchel, 2007). The news of teenage pregnancy in the family brings unpleasant feelings to both the parents and other members of the family. Mothers describe their feelings on the discovering of their teenage daughter's pregnancy as devastating, embarrassed, difficult to accept, unbelievable and unwelcomed. Some fathers were also equally disappointed and expressed their difficulty in accepting the pregnancy while some acknowledged it as a mistake. Some parents are of the view that teenage pregnancy is a mark of failed responsibilities on the part of the family members, most especially the parents. This is because they could have done more to protect their child from this predicament.

Many families at this point of their lives become disturbed on how neighbours and communities will perceive their families, because the family's name is already dragged to the mud. This might get to the point of ex-communicating the teenager who brought the shame to her family. Despite the shame upon the family, the teenager herself faces all sorts of risks such as having early pregnancy complications as a result of lack of education and communication on reproductive health matters, social and psychological problems such as dropping out of school, social discrimination, stigmatization and depression which might lead to suicide (Telford, 2013)

Causes of Deviant Behaviours

The major factors which trigger and contribute to deviant behaviours include –

- Family Problems
- Lack of Education

- Unsuitable Friendships
- Negative Effects of the Media
- Inappropriate Social Activities
- Poverty

Family is the basic unit of society whose primary responsibilities and concern is for the proper development and upbringing of children. Despite this, the family has a crucial role in the early prevention of deviant activities and minors and adolescents. Children develop their personalities and shape their patterns of behaviour by communicating and associating with adults. The lack of adequate attention, care and control is an important pre-requisite for the manifestation of deviant behaviour within the family (Shoemaker, 2005).

Family problems could emanate from the parenting styles which the parents employ to train their children such as Authoritative, Permissive and Neglectful parenting. Family problems can also be attributed to the incessant separation/divorce which is our recent problem in our marriage institutions nowadays. When all these situations arise, what will be the fate of our dear children? They will either embrace their peers or deviate from the societal norms. Embracing their peers might yield positive results if they are good peers and negative results if they are bad peers. Such deviations from societal norms will always expose them to adopting a wrong way of life.

Each family has their own beliefs, norms and values which each member adheres to, which make the family distinct. Such beliefs and values bind and keep her members in shape and connected to one another. The opposite is the case when there is a disconnection between these beliefs, norms and values, which normally lead to deviations in behaviour. The family is always seen as the first formation point of every individual on earth. The intact of a family starts with the roles and obligations of the parents, guardians and care-givers. A failure or negligence in these roles and obligations causes a total breakdown of her members which leads to deviations in behaviours and attitudes.

Lack of Education or poor quality Education has been underscored as a major reason for the occurrence of deviant behaviour. Failure to attend school always lead to lack of Education or getting inadequate Education. Lack of Education might be as a result of poor economic situations of the family, adherence to certain cultural stereotypes and lack of interest in learning. Education is the bedrock of individuals and societies in general. Education is always seen as a key to unravel successes and achievements in individuals and societies. Ideal mind, they say is a devil's workshop. The situation whereby individuals drop out of school or did not attend school at all, or finished school without a good paying job. What will be the fate of such individual? Deviations of course. This is because, he has no means of paying his bills, feeding himself and at the same time caring for all his dependents.

Unsuitable Friendships – This refers to friendships which do not contribute positively to the lives of the individuals, rather it destroys their self-worth, self-esteem and lead to deviations. In Aristotle's *Nicomachean ethics*, he states that friendship is the most important goods which he sees as 'indispensable for life'. This does not mean that we could not go on living unless we had friends, rather it means that friendship is necessary for a complete and happy life. Aristotle makes a distinction between three different types of friendship based on the objects which attract the friends and bond them together. These he calls friendship of pleasure, friendship of utility and friendship of virtue. In friendship of pleasure, two individuals are drawn to one another solely because of the enjoyment they derive from each other's company. The best examples of this type of friendship would be drinking buddies or football pals, although some sexual relationships might also be included. Friendships of utility are founded upon some practical benefits which the friends perceive in their relationships with one another. In this sense, a business associate or a neighbour with whom we share their cars with can rightly be called friends. Although our relationships with them might be limited to the workplace environment or to the car which we share with them on the way to work.

In both friendships of pleasure and utility, people become friends because of what they can get out of the relationship and not necessarily because of any real affection that they have for one another. Aristotle discusses the third type of friendship which he calls friendship of virtue. Friendship of virtue exists between individuals who are drawn to one another, for their own sake, not for any extrinsic reasons. In the course of the relationship between these two morally good individuals who are drawn together because they have similar characteristics in behaviours and attitudes, their friendship grows in virtue through their dealings with one another. On the contrary, all these types of friendships become unsuitable when it becomes a problem for the individual to achieve his life goals. For example, you have a friend who has recently began to go to dance clubs where hard-core drug use is common, perhaps she has even begun to experiment with these sorts of drug. Should you remain silent when you know that this sort of lifestyle can make you deviate from the good and law abiding individual who you use to be? Also when your friend has turned bad, you tried all you could to reform him, all to no avail. It means you have to end that friendship with that particular friend because it has turned unsuitable and might affect your moral character.

Negative effects of the Media – Davies and Cranston (2008) enumerated some of the risks associated with the media which include criminal activities such as identity theft and fake contact which is prevalent today, sexual harassment and unsuitable advertising. O'keeffe & Clake-Pearson (2011) mentioned cyber bullying, online harassment, private concerns, facebook depression etc as some of the challenges associated with the media.

Cyber bullying – is seen as a category of bullying which occurs in the digital realm or medium of electronic text. It is any behaviour performed through electronic or digital media by individuals or groups who repeatedly communicate hostile or aggressive messages intended to inflict harm or discomfort others (Tokunaga, 2010). Cyber bullying is one of the serious threats in the media today. For instance, the act of an anonymous caller or text message informing someone to get his BVN or ATM numbers for some verification in the

bank, which is all false. When such call or text messages keep on coming, it becomes a threat to someone's life.

Private Concerns – This is another concern which people who involve in the media face nowadays. The rate at which people post or share fake information, call for an alarm. It is difficult to ascertain that; what people post or say are truly who they are. Individual's private information are publicly displayed in the media and malicious people take such advantages to perpetrate all kinds of harassment towards them. The media leads to education deviations of our youths today. This is because they use short-hand to chat their friends and unconsciously get used to it, thereby, replicating some errors during school work and examinations. This might be seen as a minor challenge but it is important to acknowledge the increasing rate at which these errors are replicated in the education sector. If care is not taken, future generations might see it as a norm.

Inappropriate Social Activities – social activities are several associations, interactions and communications which individuals engage in to help them to discovering their abilities and interests, self-discipline, leadership skills and making them to developing into responsible people (Shumow, 2001). Social activities involve programs such as hunting activities, sports and music activities, reading and writing, recreation and career awareness (Shumow, 2001). Adolescents who are still in school could get involved in extracurricular activity in school clubs; such as library club, debating clubs, science clubs, quiz clubs, young achiever's club etc., where the basic concepts and values of the society are taught. Adolescents who participate in social activities after school were rated by their teachers as having better social skills and fewer behavioural problems than children who participated in no activities or inappropriate social activities. Engaging in social activities help to provide opportunities for individuals to realize their leadership potentials. Leadership is an extremely important quality for people to have in order to succeed. Leadership is learned overtime through the involvement with others.

Engaging in social activities encourage individuals by providing for them the chance to understand diverse attitudes, skills and talents and how to interact effectively with a diversity of people while working towards common goals. Many social activities teach real world skills such as journalism and photography. On the contrary, social activities spent with peers outside the supervision of adults sometimes lead to deviations (Wallace & Bachman, 1991). Individuals who deviate are usually those who spent their time in unstructured socializing with peers in the absence of authority figures. The frequency of spending evenings out of fun, spending more time talking with friends or riding in a car and hanging out with peer were the strongest predictors of substance use (Wallace & Bachman, 1991).

Poverty – The poverty level of a family refers to the family socioeconomic level which consists of parents' literacy level, household income, presence of both parents, employment status of parents etc. This implies that a higher socioeconomic status would translate to a higher household income, higher level of parents' education, full time employment and a two parents' household. The opposite would be true for low socioeconomic status. A person is considered poor when his standard of living is measured in terms of income or expenditure (Uyang, Festus & Bassey, 2016). The level of poverty in the country has escalated so much that the poor families strain to get the very basic needs. All parents would love to be the best for their children by being fully responsive to the needs of their family members, being there for them emotionally, physically and consequently developing a secure attachment with them. All these needs if provided for will ensure that family members become comfortable, responsible and independent people who are able to co-exist peacefully with others in the society. However, it becomes a big challenge when parents are not able to provide for their family members as expected of them. These economic constraints have devastating effects to the behaviours of the youths and adolescents in the society. As a result of poverty today, our youths indulge in all forms of crimes just to put food on the table for their family members.

The rate of increase in crime and deviance are always attributed to poverty and poor economic status of parents in the society.

Solutions

According to Crosswhite & Kerpelman, (2008), deviant behaviours could be prevented from appearing, if parents involve these techniques. They include –

- Effective discipline
- Monitoring
- Problem solving techniques

Effective discipline is recognizing deviant behaviour and keeping track of when they occur. Consistent discipline must be insured at the sight of these behaviours in order to prevent the development. However, harsh punishment will not stop deviant behaviour when it is at the peak of developing, it will only promote it. The child may view the punishment as unfair and unjust, this can cause them to start acting out.

Monitoring involves the awareness of where there is, who their friends are and what they do in free time. According to Barnes et al (2006), monitoring is a strong technique and predictor for a child's deviant behaviour, this shows how important parents and family members are in the life of a child and how their involvements can make a difference in deviant behaviour.

Problem solving skills are important as a child's develops his communication skills. A lack of communication can cause a child to be defensive, reject their responsibilities and increase their anger. These traits can influence deviant behaviours and associations with deviant peers. Parents should ensure that they engage in positive parenting by continually supporting their children. Families should try as much as they can to reinforce positive behaviours and effectively punish deviance, so that they will not experience weak bonding with their children and family members (Crosswhite & Kerpelman, 2008). It is through these weak bonds that the child is more likely to participate in deviant behaviours. Weak bonds between parents and children can be explained through strain

theory. Strain theory suggests that individuals become deviants because of their inability to achieve positive valued goals. The valued goals from a child are the feelings of being loved and supported. When a child does not experience love and support from parents and family members, they might end up experiencing anger and frustration which might lead to deviant behaviour (Crosswhite & Kerpelman, 2008).

The quality of parenting affects peer associations - Parents have the ability to directly influence whom their child associates with. Through effective monitoring and discipline, a child's access to an affiliation with deviant peers is affected. Through effective monitoring, parents keep track of their children's whereabouts. In doing this, parents can limit where their children go and who they associate with. Through monitoring and disciplining, strong parents-child bond is very influential and viable. Children who are closer to their parents are more likely to care about their parents' opinion regarding their friends. Coercive parenting can weaken this bond. When this bond is weakened through parental conflict such as divorce, children might end up getting deviated from the societal norms. Divorce is becoming a common thing in the society today. The conflicts between parents decrease the quality of parenting thereby weakening the bonds. When these bonds are weakened, self-control decreases, causing the child to act out and engage in deviant behaviour if not guided.

Conclusions

The family as a unit in the society has its roles, obligations and responsibilities towards her members. These roles, obligations and responsibility have to be carried out efficiently to enable her members achieve the bond which the family gives and at same time encourage her members not to deviate from the family and societal norms. Ensuring a child's welfare is the priority of every family particularly and society in general.

Naturally, when members of the family display socially unacceptable behaviours, it means they need special attention and care to help them overcome the deviations in their behaviours. Individuals who display deviant behaviours are primarily victims of different social

circumstances in today's complex reality. They become offenders by violating the generally accepted norms of behaviour. The active participation of the family, the state and social institutions are necessary for breaking this vicious circle. Only a combination of educational, corrective, preventive and protective measures may have a positive effect on such individual.

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